

I support media diversity

I am writing to you to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. It has goals to further competition, diversity and such in today's media market. I strongly believe that the FCC should hang on to all of the current media ownership rules now in question, for safe keeping. So many large corporations have power over the media, thus the FCC can help to control that power.

I do wonder if the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately show the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. There may be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become, obviously, more limited. Coverage of the anti-war protests is a sample. Instead of that coverage, we had non-stop coverage of the build-up of men and materiel.

The right, and the ability to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of what has made our nation great. What might have happened if our forefathers had not been able to speak up? They made their voices heard. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, by process of merger, we will be down to less than a handful of outlets and our chances of diversity of speech as we know it will be greatly diminished.

Please keep the public you serve in mind. Our interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question, in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, it should be possible to hold additional hearings around the country. In this way you, the FCC, would gain much from the people who will be so affected by your decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with deep pockets and financial interest, but also the so-called average person who would like a balanced media. So often decisions are made and I think about the bald fact that no one asked me what I thought. That is why I am sending this to you.

These rule changes will have a serious impact on our democracy, thus it is important for the Commission to take the time to review these issues very thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the matter.

Sincerely,

[Stephanie Latour]